

SAINT IVES (HUNTS)
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR 1965

**LIST OF PARISHES
IN THE
COUNCIL'S AREA**

BLUNTISHAM

BROUGHTON

BURY

COLNE

EARITH

FENSTANTON

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS

HEMINGFORD GREY

HILTON

HOLYWELL-CUM-NEEDINGWORTH

HOUGHTON AND WYTON

OLDHURST

PIDLEY-CUM-FENTON

SOMERSHAM

WARBOYS

WISTOW

WOODHURST

Saint Ives Rural District Council

— o —

Chairman of the Council:

D. B. Wright, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

H. E. Parren, Esq.

Members of the Council:

Cmdr. C. F. Alington	R. W. Giddins, Esq.
H. G. W. Anderson, Esq.	J. W. Harris, Esq.
P. W. Bailey, Esq.	C. D. Hutchcraft, Esq.
Mrs. A. R. Buck	G. Kiddle, Esq., M.B.E.
D. H. Burch, Esq.	M. F. Newman, Esq.
M. P. Denny, Esq.	Mrs. W. M. Price, C.C.
G. A. Earl, Esq., C.A.	R. G. Saint, Esq.
Revd. A. J. R. Eyre	Miss V. M. G. Thackray
S. E. K. Falconer, Esq.	Canon N. Trafford, A.L.C.D.
R. A. Wright, Esq., O.B.E.	

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

R. A. WRIGHT, ESQ., O.B.E.

Vice-Chairman:

R. W. GIDDINS, ESQ.

Members:

Cmdr. C. F. Alington	C. D. Hutchcraft, Esq.
P. W. Bailey, Esq.	H. E. Parren, Esq.
Mrs. A. R. Buck	Mrs. W. M. Price, C.C.
D. H. Burch, Esq.	R. G. Saint, Esq.
M. P. Denny, Esq.	Miss V. M. G. Thackray
G. A. Earl, Esq., C.A.	Canon N. Trafford, A.L.C.D.
Revd. A. J. R. Eyre	D. B. Wright, Esq., J.P.
J. W. Harris, Esq.	

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P., & S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

G. H. Phipps, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

K. Broom, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

P. A. Haggerty, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Administrative Assistant:

M. L. Jones

ANNUAL REPORT
of the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of
Saint Ives in the County of Huntingdon and Peterborough
for the year ended 31st December, 1965

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the Saint Ives Rural
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1965.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION. A considerable increase of some 420 has been credited this year to the population of the district.

BIRTH RATE. The crude birth rate (18.0) shows a fractional decrease compared with the rate for last year. The corrected birth rate also indicates a downward trend and now stands lower than it has done since 1960.

DEATH RATE. Both the crude and the corrected death rates show a considerable decrease this year as compared with 1964 and stand now at a level well below the national average.

49% of the deaths occurred in persons of 75 years and over and 76% occurred in persons of 65 years and over.

56% of the deaths were due to disease of the cardio-vascular system and 10% to cancer.

INFANT MORTALITY. Three infants died during the year before reaching the age of 12 months giving an infant mortality rate of 9.9 per 1,000 live births. This figure is less than half the rate which prevailed in 1964 and also less than half the rate for England and Wales as a whole for 1965.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE. As in 1964 notifiable infectious diseases ran at a fairly low level there being no outbreaks reported. Measles, which is endemic in this Country, accounted for over 80% of the total notifications. Five cases of dysentery occurred during the first quarter of the year. After full investigations no definite source was established in any of the cases notified

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

HOUSING. The Council's housing programme continued at a very reduced rate this year and only 2 council dwellings were completed.

Very little effort is now required to complete the Slum Clearance problem within the district and only a

few isolated dwellings now remain to be dealt with before the present scheme is finished and overcrowding eliminated. Council property is carefully supervised and improvements have been carried out when required so that the standard of housing provided by the Council is maintained at a very high level. Private development within the district has continued with increasing momentum and no less than 117 houses were erected during the year.

Increasing development has necessitated the provision of certain County amenities. Several new schools have been constructed and have greatly improved the 'lot' of both teachers and scholars. A modern purpose-built health clinic in the Borough of St. Ives was officially opened during the year and provides many health services for the town and neighbouring parts of the rural district. The County Council has also developed a plan for recreation in the Ouse Valley with particular emphasis on camping areas, picnic areas and parking facilities.

DRAINAGE. Progress was maintained during the year on the Council's programme of main drainage schemes throughout the district. Work on the Holywell-cum-Needingworth scheme continued during the year with little interruption and it is expected that by 1966 the scheme will be in full operation. A similar scheme for the Parish of Warboys is next on the list for implementation.

WATER SUPPLY to the district is maintained by the Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board and by the Cambridge Water Company. In general the supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality and appreciation is now being felt for the efforts made by the Cambridge Company to reduce the degree of hardness of the water supplied. Naturally occurring Fluoride is virtually absent in the water in this area and no progress has been made by either company to implement the recommendation of the Ministry of Health to supply drinking water containing 1 part per million fluoride. Unless the Ministry make their recommendation mandatory it is unlikely that progress will be made in this field of preventive medicine.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Phipps and all other members of the Department's staff for the assistance they have given me, and for all the work they have done during the year despite the relatively small establishment to carry out the duties entailed.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CALDWELL.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS FOR THE AREA

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (mid. 1964)	16,380
Population (mid. 1965)	16,800
Area (acres)	44,992
Rateable value	£471,601
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£2,009
Number of inhabited houses	4,906

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1965

Estimated mid-year home population ... 16,800

LIVE BIRTHS	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	153	137	290
Illegitimate	7	5	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	160	142	302
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 18.0

Birth Rate corrected by
comparability factor (.96) 17.3

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population
(England and Wales) 18.1

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	3	1	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and
still births 13.0

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and
still births (England and Wales) 15.7

DEATHS

65 64 129
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population 7.7

Death Rate corrected by
comparability factor (1.24) 9.5

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population
(England and Wales) 11.5

INFANT MORTALITY — Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	1	2	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant mortality rate (Deaths of infants
under 1 year per 1,000 live births) 9.9

Infant mortality rate (England and Wales) 19.0

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

<i>Ages</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 4 weeks	—	1	1
4 weeks and under 1 year	1	1	2
1 and under 5 years	—	—	—
5 and under 15 years	—	—	—
15 and under 25 years	2	—	2
25 and under 35 years	—	—	—
35 and under 45 years	3	—	3
45 and under 55 years	3	3	6
55 and under 65 years	9	7	16
65 and under 75 years	25	11	36
75 years and over	22	41	63
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	65	64	129
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The following table indicates the trend in population, birth and death rates for the district over the past 5 years :-

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Population	16,370	15,570	16,510	16,510	16,800
BIRTHS					
Total live births	280	290	302	307	302
Crude birth rate	17.1	18.6	18.3	18.7	18.0
Area comparability factor	1.07	1.01	.96	.96	.96
Corrected birth rate	18.3	19.9	17.6	18.0	17.3
Birth rate (England and Wales)	17.4	18.0	18.2	18.4	18.1
DEATHS					
Total deaths	125	123	137	153	129
Crude death rate	7.6	7.9	8.3	9.3	7.7
Area comparability factor	1.16	1.19	1.2	1.2	1.24
Corrected death rate	8.8	9.4	9.9	11.2	9.5
Death rate (England and Wales)	12.0	11.9	12.2	11.3	11.5

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING 1965

					<i>Total cases notified</i>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	3
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	93
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	9
Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	...	2
Typhoid fever	...	...	...	...	—
Paratyphoid fever	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	1
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	5
Total					114

CAUSES OF DEATHS

(Registrar General's List)

<i>List No.</i>	<i>Cause</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
9.	Other infectious and parasitic diseases	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	2
16.	Diabetes	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	8
18.	Coronary disease, angina	17	9
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	—
20.	Other heart disease	8	11
21.	Other circulatory disease	3	6
22.	Influenza	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	5	12
24.	Bronchitis	6	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenham	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
31.	Congenital malformations	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	7
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	3	—
34.	All other accidents	—	1
Total all causes		65	64

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1965 ... 32

Pulmonary ... 30 Non-pulmonary ... 2

There were no new cases notified or transferred during 1965.

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952 in connection with persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

The following Laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the area:-

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge (Tel. Cambridge 55526).

Public Analyst, (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.),
Tennison Road, Cambridge (Tel. Cambridge 2097).

(b) AMBULANCE SERVICES

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders.
(Tel. Huntingdon 348).

(c) HOME NURSING

Nurse/Midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home nursing and attended maternity cases.

- (i) A nurse residing in Warboys (Tel. Warboys 224) attended cases in Warboys and Broughton.
- (ii) A nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel. Earith 225) attended cases in Somersham and Pidley.
- (iii) A nurse residing in Hemingford Grey (Tel. St. Ives 2128) attended cases in the Hemingfords, Fenstanton and Hilton.
- (iv) A nurse residing in Woodhurst (Tel. Warboys 327) attended cases in Wyton Aerodrome, Woodhurst, Oldhurst and Upwood.
- (v) A nurse residing in Fenstanton (Tel. St. Ives 3623) attended cases in Houghton and Wyton villages.

(d) CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

(i) The following Health Services were provided by the Huntingdon County Council :-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic. Station Approach, St. Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m. 1st Monday in month. 2-4 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in month. 2-4 p.m. 1st Wednesday in month. 2-4 p.m.	Ditto. Constitutional Hall, Fenstanton. Methodist Schoolroom, Somersham. Women's Institute Hall, Warboys.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren, Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	Every Monday 9 a.m.-12 noon. 1.30-4.30 p.m. Every Tuesday 9 a.m.-12 noon 1.30 - 4.30 p.m. Every Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon	Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives. Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon

(ii) The following Health Services were provided by the Regional Hospital Board :-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases Males Females and Children	Tuesdays, 3-6.30 p.m. Thursdays, 4-6.30 p.m. Mondays, 4.30-6.30 p.m. Tuesdays, 5.30-7 p.m. Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon Thursdays, 4.30-6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Out-Patients Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
Orthopaedic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	Every Tuesday 10-12 noon (Surgeons by appointment) 1st, 2nd and 4th Fridays in month (Sister) 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Health Clinic. Nursery Road Huntingdon Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives.

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service :-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency) . 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2-3 p.m.	Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon

Medical, Surgical, Orthopædic, Pædiatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynæcological and Dental out-patients' clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) HOSPITAL SERVICES

FEVER. Cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

GENERAL HOSPITAL SERVICES were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

MATERNITY CASES were admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon and Mill Road Maternity Hospital, Cambridge.

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This, the 28th Annual Report I have submitted to the Council gives a broad outline of the work undertaken by the Department during 1965.

The spate of legislation affecting the Council's activities shows no sign of slackening which together with the increase in administrative work due to the continued expansion within the district made it a difficult year with little to show for our efforts.

A substantial amount of preliminary work however was done to stimulate further development in the district and this should produce substantial results in the next few years. Perhaps the major factor in this development will be the speed at which main drainage schemes are completed.

Paradoxically, the owner occupiers of a number of substantial modern houses in the Hemingfords have not yet connected their drainage systems to the new sewers and are still using their septic tanks. This is a matter that will have to be considered by the Council to enable full advantage to be taken of the large capital expenditure incurred in providing the sewers.

Finally, I would like to record my appreciation of the services of Mr. F. W. Palmer who retired this year after eighteen years' service in the department and the remainder of the staff who have tackled the work with enthusiasm.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. H. PHIPPS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

1. (1) WATER

The Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board and the Cambridge Water Company are responsible for the supply and distribution of water in the district.

The Council has no direct representation on the Board of the Cambridge Water Company but appoints one Member to the Joint Consultation Committee. Similarly it has one representative on the Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board.

The Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board supplies water to Hemingford Abbots, Hemingford Grey, Houghton and Wyton; the remainder of the district is supplied by the Cambridge Water Company.

During the year no restrictions on the use of water for domestic purposes were imposed by either the Board or the Company, and except in one or two areas, pressures have been adequate.

There is a good network of mains throughout the district extending to the fen areas to the North and East, and further extensions of the mains are completed to isolated farms and cottages from time to time.

The water supplied is extremely hard; up to 500 parts per million from the Joint Board, but the Cambridge Water Company has reduced this to approximately 300 parts per million by mixing softened water from Cambridge (130 parts per million) with the water from the Earith source (500 parts per million).

No fluoride is introduced into the supplies although the Council has advocated fluoridation.

The Cambridge Water Company is unable to separate the water supplied to Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire and the latter Authority is opposed to this principle.

The quality of all the supplies is satisfactory. Both the Joint Board and the Company take annual chemical samples at source and bacteriological samples from their distribution areas once a month.

Ten samples of mains water were taken from premises in the district. Four of these premises were served by the Cambridge Water Company and the other six by the Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board. Bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service showed all samples to be satisfactory.

Six samples of water were taken from a local caravan site, the mains water supply of which was served to the caravans via large storage tanks. Four of these samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination and the other two were sent to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis. The results obtained indicated that the water although fit for human consumption was not quite satisfactory, and the matter was therefore passed to the Cambridge Water Company. On inspection of the site the Water Company agreed that the design of the water system was such that a possibility of pollution did in fact exist, and advised the owner that he was under a legal obligation to have a completely redesigned water system installed as soon as was possible.

One Firm operating a large Milk Distribution and Processing Plant has its own private source in the form of a shallow well. The water is chlorinated, softened to zero degrees and then re-chlorinated before use. Bacteriological examination of this water is carried out daily by the Firm.

1. (2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The following villages have main drainage with adequate disposal works:- Somersham, Hemingford Abbots, Hemingford Grey, Houghton and Wyton. The scheme for Holywell and Needingworth commenced in 1964, progressed satisfactorily in 1965 and is due to come into operation in September 1966.

Two major schemes for (a) Warboys, Broughton and Oldhurst; (b) Fenstanton and Hilton, were in course of preparation by the Council's Consulting Engineers for submission to the Ministry.

The scheme for Bury, made no headway, as the Council's decision to provide a disposal works for this village independantly of Ramsey Urban District Council, met with objections on planning grounds and these difficulties remained unsolved at the end of the year.

As Bury is zoned for major residential development it is essential that adequate sewers and disposal works be provided without delay, as the septic tanks built for the houses recently completed are not working satisfactorily, due to the heavy clay subsoil that prevents the normal absorption of the effluent into the ground by way of the

soakaways. This situation is in direct contrast to the position in the Hemingfords, Houghton and Wyton which are built on the river gravels where the level of the subsoil water rises and falls according to the seasons and is governed by the volume of rainfall in the winter months.

It was evident early in the year that serious infiltration into the sewers was occurring at many points in these villages, and extensive checks were made in the sewers, the laterals and the house drains. These checks indicated that the main sewers, and the wet walls at the pumping stations were satisfactory and watertight. It was found that the capped salt glazed joinder junctions laid by the Contractors at the ends of the pitch fibre laterals had faulty joints and these are being removed as new connections are made. The major source of the infiltration appears to be by way of the house drains and inspection chambers and it will be necessary for many of these to be relaid and rebuilt.

The volume of surface water entering the sewers via the house drains is what one would normally expect in the district, but this too needs to be carefully watched to prevent the unauthorised drainage of yards and roof water to the foul sewers.

The small disposal works treating the effluents from Housing Estates at Bury, Colne, Earith, Fenstanton, Hilton and Warboys continued to give satisfactory service; adequate supervision of these plants was maintained at a satisfactory level and no major breakdowns occurred.

The disposal works at Oldhurst (Purchased from the Air Ministry in 1953) are partially operated to deal with effluent from houses and a large caravan site at Oldhurst, these works will be enlarged and modernised to treat sewage from Warboys, Broughton and Oldhurst.

All maintenance work on the sewers, the three major and six minor disposal works, and twenty pumping stations is carried out by a direct labour staff consisting of a Foreman, two charge hands and five men, who had a very busy year.

Development in the larger villages without main drainage is being restricted and the Council decided to provide a temporary disposal works on the extended aeration principle, at Hilton, to serve a joint private and Council estate.

It is possible other similar plants will be provided by private developers which will be taken over by the Council and maintained by it until such time as main drainage schemes are completed.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS

The River Ouse which flows through the district is controlled by the Great Ouse River Authority.

No serious flooding occurred during the year, but the Hemingfords will remain vulnerable to a flood reaching the 1947 levels unless a similar flood protection scheme to that provided at Houghton and Wyton is constructed. No definite information on the implementation of such a scheme has been received from the River Authority.

Although the weather during the summer months was poor and unsettled the number of pleasure craft, more particularly power cruisers, continues to increase and angling is as popular as ever.

The hazards to young children bathing in the river are continuously being brought to the notice of the general public, but vandalism is prevalent and warning notices disappear overnight or are senselessly destroyed.

There was one bathing fatality at Houghton, but there were no accidents, as on the broads, due to explosions in power driven craft.

A factor which will grow in importance is the pollution of the river, first with sewage, as the larger craft, now replacing the row-boats and the punts, are all fitted with lavatories that in most cases discharge directly into the river, and secondly with diesel oil which is particularly lethal to plant and fish life.

3. (1) CLOSET CONVERSIONS

The total number of conversions during the year was 31. Of these, 29 were in houses that were the subject of either Standard or Discretionary Grants under the Housing Acts, the remaining 2 were applications under the provisions of the Public Health Acts.

3. (2) PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) NIGHT-SOIL COLLECTION

A weekly collection of night-soil is carried out throughout the district by means of two 750 gallon Yorkshire Karrier Tankers which are fitted with night-soil attachments.

Approximately 585 pails were emptied each week.

The areas of land available for disposal are limited and even these areas are inaccessible during the winter months.

The answer of course is main drainage.

Meanwhile stop gap methods such as the provision of straw compounds at Oldhurst Sewage Works continue to be employed. The effluent is drained to the sludge drying bed sump and pumped back very slowly through the works. Similar straw compounds in isolated positions have been provided by local Farmers, but as a rule these are inaccessible to the heavy tankers for many months of the year.

It is hoped to make some provision for the disposal of night-soil at the Oldhurst Sewage Works when it is modernised and enlarged as part of the Warboys main drainage scheme.

The contract for the collection and disposal of night-soil from Huntingdon Borough Council continued during the year.

(b) CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The same vehicles are used for cesspool emptying and gully cleansing as are used for the night-soil service.

The number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied during the year was 1,243.

The demand for this service has increased and the difficulty lies, not in the collection, but in the disposal of vast quantities of septic sewage and sludge that no one wants and few can be persuaded to take.

The charges for the service have remained unaltered since they were first fixed in 1950 namely 25/-, for each 700 gallon load and a sliding scale reducing the charge for additional loads.

The service is made available to neighbouring Local Authorities and Government Departments for desludging sewage tanks and gully emptying.

In addition the service is made available to private individuals in adjacent districts.

(c) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly kerbside collection of house refuse is carried out throughout the district and a satisfactory service was maintained during the year.

Three vehicles are used for the collection, one "dual tip" of 15 cubic yards capacity and two, 22 cubic yard compression type vehicles fitted with hydraulic rams.

It was found necessary, owing to the development in the district to increase the labour force, which now consists of 8 men and a foreman. Labour for this service is not easy to recruit, but fortunately nearly all the personnel that are employed stay for many years and absence due to injuries or illness is at a very low level.

It was apparent by the end of the year that it would be necessary to replace the "Dual Tip" with another compression type vehicle to keep abreast of the ever increasing volume of refuse. Such machines are essential in order to obtain an adequate payload when collecting refuse in Rural Areas.

Tipping facilities are difficult to obtain, and suitable cover is very expensive. The tip at Meadow Lane, St. Ives was filled by the end of August and practically all the refuse was tipped at Hemingford Grey in worked out gravel pits. It is hoped that further areas of worked out gravel pits will become available at Meadow Lane in a few years, and ultimately at other pits near Somersham.

By arrangement with the Borough Council a weekly kerbside collection of House Refuse is carried out at Saint Ives. Trade Refuse is also collected from the Borough and Rural District. Tipping is permitted on the Council's tips on payment of a small charge.

LITTER RECEPTACLES

A number of Parish Councils have provided litter bins at suitable points. Suggestions as to the best type of receptacles to be provided are made to the Parish Councils. The receptacles are emptied on the normal refuse collection days in each parish, but in the hot weather they can give rise to nuisance when not emptied more frequently and it is difficult for the parishes to find anybody to undertake this work.

3. (3) ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS IN THE AREA

(a) HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	...	199
Re-Inspections ...	...	47
Number of Preliminary Notices served ...	...	36
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with ...	...	36
Number of Statutory Notices served ...	...	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with ...	...	—

(b) INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937-1961

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	8	5	Nil	Nil
2. Section 7	49	31	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—
Total	57	36	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—

The following defects were found as a result of the inspections:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were:—				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	6	6	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation	2	2	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	8	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	21	21	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—

During the usual routine inspection of factories, a number of infringements of Part One of the above Act were found, all of which were remedied after being brought to the occupiers attention. Generally the premises were found to be in satisfactory condition.

(c) INSPECTIONS UNDER STATUTES

Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	148
Dumps, Tips	...	...	...	...	...	223
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	107
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers' Premises	...	...	...	...	...	124
Shops and Offices	...	...	...	...	...	127
Pumps, Wells	...	...	...	...	...	9
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	320
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	519
Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	...	449
General Public Health	...	...	...	...	...	250
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	14
Preserved Foods, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	31
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	61
After Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	29
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	67
Food Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	115
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	352
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	183
Drainage Schemes	...	...	...	...	...	321
Conversion Grants	...	...	...	...	...	75
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	192
TOTAL						3,727

As a result of the above inspections and complaints relevant thereto, 371 Informal Notices were served during the year, and the high standard of co-operation with which they were met is highlighted by the fact that on no occasion was it found necessary for the Council to institute legal proceedings.

3. (4) CARAVAN SITES

The Council granted new licences in respect of five caravan sites during the year. Three of the licences were for single caravans, whilst the other two were for sites containing fifteen and eleven caravans respectively.

The number of licenced sites in the area now stands at forty-three and altogether they contain approximately one hundred and seventy-five caravans. A more accurate estimation is hampered by the fact that some of the caravans are owner-occupied and hence liable to move on at short notice.

Nearly all the caravans in this district are occupied on a rather permanent basis, as opposed to the type that cater for seasonal holiday makers.

This situation is worth closer examination because in many ways these caravans fall far short of what may be considered desirable housing accommodation. There is no doubt that they meet perfectly the requirements of those persons, who may be loosely termed as the floating section of the community, needing a 'stop-gap' type of housing. For example:- Members of H.M. Armed Forces, married couples saving for a new house or waiting other type of accommodation, and workers engaged on lengthy contracts away from home. In this respect a more suitable alternative, economically speaking, would be difficult to envisage. On the other hand there is evidence that many of the caravans are in fact being occupied on a permanent basis, in the true sense of the expression.

On granting site licences the Council insists on conditions similar to those outlined in the Model Standards, approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, but it is debatable whether the type of site arrived at by this procedure is entirely satisfactory. The provision of communal sanitary facilities, etc., certainly puts the occupiers of permanent sites in a worse environmental position than many families in old dwelling houses. It can be argued that in some ways caravans in rural settings have many advantages over the older type of houses but on closer scrutiny most of these advantages can be outweighed by the obvious disadvantages.

It seems ironical that whilst the Council has over the years been eliminating old houses in the district by a progressive slum clearance policy, the number of permanent

caravans has been steadily growing. This growth must in time present the Council with the problem of dealing with increasing numbers of overcrowded families who will no doubt claim priority on an already overburdened Housing Waiting List. The apparent non-distinction between the terms mobile home and caravan may create serious problems of another kind in that the former, which often has floor areas of up to five hundred square feet, will be exempt from the provisions of the proposed Building Regulations and may therefore be subject to the wrong sort of exploitation, perhaps on a very large scale.

At present there are approximately one hundred thousand caravans and mobile homes in the British Isles and it is estimated that permanent residential sites accommodate something like ten thousand of this total. The figures appear to confirm that what has been discussed as a local problem is in fact a national one. In view of this it would appear likely that in the near future the scope of existing legislation, in particular the parts relative to environmental standards, will be improved in order to deal effectively with the situation.

3. (5) SWIMMING BATHS

No progress was made in the joint project for the provision of modern baths at Saint Ives.

Two County Primary Schools in the district have plastic pools. Circulating Pumps are used to assist in the effective chlorination of the water.

Regular sampling is carried out by the staff at the schools to ensure that an adequate level of free chlorine is maintained. On two occasions at Houghton C.P. School the free chlorine was found to be below the safe level and examination of the Sterilizing Reagent Dosing Plant revealed a fault due to bad design.

A letter and sketch was sent to the manufacturers of the equipment (Purley Pools Ltd., of Surrey) suggesting certain modifications designed to eliminate the possibility of the fault re-occurring. Mr. R. B. Durell, the Company's Chairman replied, thanking us for the suggestions, which would be incorporated in the design for next year's equipment.

3. (6) RODENT CONTROL

The demand during the year by householders for the special pre-packed cartons of Warfarin, which are issued free of charge, remained reasonably constant. Close observation of the demand for this particular service should clearly indicate when the time has arrived for the Council to consider employing a full-time Rodent Control Operator. At present however, the system in use, whereby the Foreman of the Public Cleansing Department deals with minor outbreaks in the district, and regular disinfestations of the Council's refuse tips appears to be adequate.

3. (7) OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

General statistics compiled from the reports on registered premises are as follows :-

CLASSIFICATION OF PREMISES		
Classification	Number of Premises registered	Number of Employees
Offices	16	58
Shops (Retail)	33	68
Wholesale departments, Warehouses	0	1
Catering Establishments	4	19
Canteens	0	4
Fuel Storage Depots	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	53	150
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total Males	78
	Total Females	72

A further eight premises were registered with the Council during the year bringing the total to 53. In connection with these premises, informal notices were served on the respective occupiers outlining the infringements found when inspections effecting registration were made. Routine inspections of these, and all other registered premises will be made in order to ensure that they are brought up to and maintained in a satisfactory condition.

3. (8) ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are two Boarding Kennels in the district which together can provide accommodation for up to 110 dogs. The owners are obliged to renew the licences in respect of the premises with the Council on an annual basis and routine inspections of the premises are regularly made. On the whole these establishments are well run and maintained in good order.

HOUSING

(a) SLUM CLEARANCE

The following table shows the progress in the Council's Slum Clearance programme up to the end of the year:-

Number of houses represented as Unfit:-

(a) Clearance Areas	...	...	...	30
(b) Individual Unfit houses	...	...	...	237
Number dealt with by informal action	...	...	...	5
			Total	272

Number of houses included in Clearance Order	...	...	...	30
Number of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	100
Number of Closing Orders made	...	...	...	2
Number of houses demolished as a result of informal action	...	...	...	10
Number of Undertakings accepted	...	...	...	128
Number of houses closed as a result of informal action	...	...	...	1
Number of houses made fit as a result of informal action	...	...	...	1
			—	272

Number of Houses Demolished:-

(a) In Clearance Areas	...	...	...	30
(b) By Demolition Orders	...	...	...	79
(c) By Informal Action	...	...	...	10
(d) As a result of Undertakings	...	...	...	24
Number of Undertakings cancelled	...	...	...	42
Number of Demolition Orders cancelled	...	...	...	11

As can be seen from the above table, the post war assessment made by the Council which fixed a target of 300 dwellings has nearly been completed. This fact coupled with the ready facilities made available by the Council to

private house owners for Improvement Grants, accounts for the decreasing numbers each year of houses which are being represented as unfit. Obviously there will always be a number of unfit houses in the district but it is hoped that, by the building of adequate numbers of Council houses, and possibly by the more economical measure of implementing the provisions of the Housing Act, 1964 which relate to Improvement Areas, these will be kept to a minimum.

(b) GENERAL

Only 2 houses were completed by the Council in 1965 and a further 8 were in course of erection.

At the request of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government the Council after careful consideration, submitted a housing programme of 250 dwellings for the four years 1965–1968; 150 of which would be for General Needs, 50 for old people and 50 for the replacement of unfit dwellings. This programme would be dependant on the availability of labour and materials and adequate financial arrangements to enable the dwellings to be let at reasonable rents.

To expedite the programme the Council decided to offer building firms purchasing land from the Council the opportunity of negotiating tenders for the erection of Council Houses and sharing the cost of roads, sewers, etc., and the provision of temporary sewage disposal plant, where this was possible.

The County Council, as the Planning Authority was pressed by the District Council to revise the village plans for the Hemingfords, when it was pointed out that, as a Housing Authority, the latter was unable to carry out its Statutory duties under the Housing Acts, due to the non-availability of land.

Little progress towards the revision of the village plan had been made by the end of year.

The number of houses built by private enterprise, in the district increased to 117, an all time peak, and there was no evidence that the demand for houses was being fully met. Undoubtedly the absence of main drainage restricted further residential development in 1965 in several villages.

The following table shows the progress made in the erection of both council and privately owned houses since 1946:-

					Council houses completed	Private houses completed
1946	...	...	...	...	18	10
1947	...	...	...	...	47	29
1948	...	...	...	...	50	19
1949	...	...	...	...	47	15
1950	...	...	...	...	47	21
1951	...	...	...	...	25	8
1952	...	...	...	...	56	2
1953	...	...	...	...	50	23
1954	...	...	...	...	74	23
1955	...	...	...	...	63	17
1956	...	...	...	...	15	36
1957	...	...	...	...	25	43
1958	...	...	...	...	21	41
1959	...	...	...	...	29	76
1960	...	...	...	...	19	62
1961	...	...	...	...	26	43
1962	...	...	...	...	20	75
1963	...	...	...	...	8	108
1964	...	...	...	...	34	107
1965	...	...	...	...	2	117
					<hr/> 676	<hr/> 875

The total number of council houses and bungalows at the end of the year was 1,088. All are subject to the Council's Differential Rent Scheme and are maintained by a Direct Labour Force consisting of a Foreman and 7 men.

HOUSING ADVANCES FOR HOUSE PURCHASE

During 1965, twenty-three advances amounting to the sum of £56,137 were made. This brings the total number of advances made since the Council introduced its House Purchase Scheme in 1952, to 148; in respect of which loans totalling £267,000 have been granted.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The number of Improvement Grants rose this year to 38, all of which were granted.

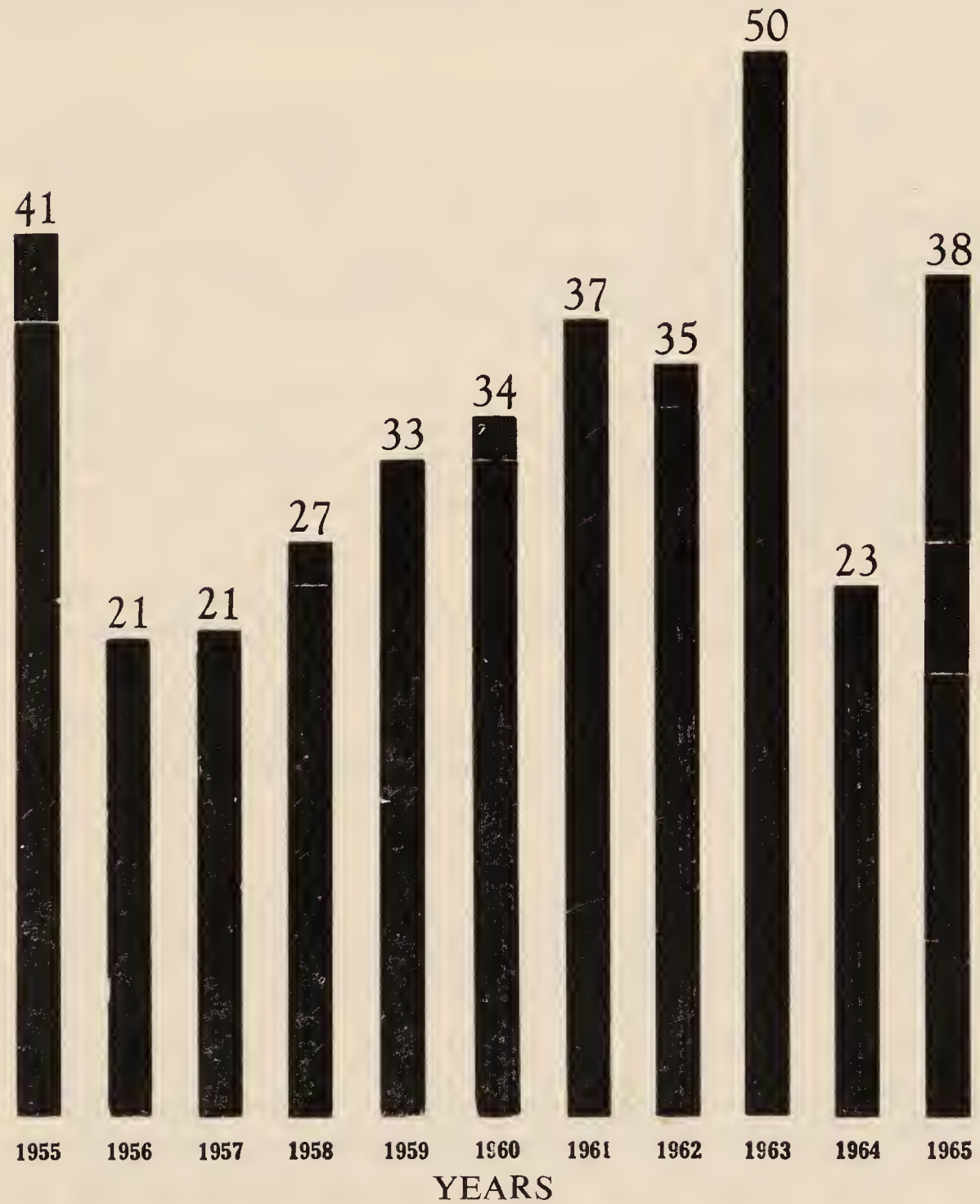
Standard Grants amounting to £4,133 were made in respect of 24 houses and Discretionary Grants amounting to £4,350 were made in respect of 14 houses; averages of £172 and £310 respectively.

Since the commencement of legislation with provisions for improvement of dwelling houses, the Council has approved Grants amounting to the sum of £77,410, in respect of 376 houses; an average cost of £206 per house.

The column graph on this page shows a breakdown of the number of grants made in respect of private houses in the district over the past ten years.

Quite a number of council house improvement schemes were commenced during the year but as most of these will not be completed until 1966, further details on such schemes will be analysed in future reports.

IMPROVEMENT GRANT STATISTICS, 1955 to 1965
NUMBER OF GRANTS



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

An increasing proportion of the time available was devoted to the inspection of premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

As a result of joint action between the Department and the Food and Drugs Authority, a baker in the district was fined £15 in respect of the presence of a 'foreign body' in bread.

Routine visits and inspections were regularly made to food premises and it is now noticeable that more and more small shop keepers are giving much closer attention to protect unpackaged food on display, from contamination by dust and flies; but this is often nullified by the condition under which the food, after purchase, is stored at their home.

(a) MILK SUPPLY

A large proportion of the milk retailed in the district is purveyed by two firms, both of whom operate high temperature short-time pasteurisation plants. Occasionally complaints regarding bottles are received from members of the public, but every possible precaution is taken at the bottling plants to minimise such occurrences.

Although the Council still have adequate powers to inspect all premises, including dairies, under the General Health legislation, all the specific regulations formerly administered by the Council have now been transferred to other authorities.

As a general rule therefore, no routine visits are made to dairies unless exceptional circumstances warrant an inspection.

This procedure has been adopted to avoid duplication of visits from officers of different local authorities.

(b) ICE CREAM

No manufacturers operate from within the district, all ice cream retailed consists of pre-packed brands, distributed by the large national companies.

Sixteen samples of ice cream were taken from licenced retailers in the district and submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination. All were found satisfactory, which is indicative of a high standard of hygiene throughout all stages of

manufacture, handling and storage, and proper rotation of stock by the retailers concerned.

(c) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the area.

All the meat sold is imported from adjoining areas, butchers buying direct from wholesalers or from local fatstock markets and arranging for animals to be slaughtered in premises situated outside the district.

By arrangement with the Council and two neighbouring Authorities, the Department assists in the inspection of meat in those districts during holiday periods and in any emergency.

Small quantities of meat, fish and canned foods were condemned and destroyed.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The Food premises in the district have been classified as follows:-

Bakers	...	...	...	...	6
Butchers	...	...	...	...	10
Cafés and Canteens			...	...	9
Confectioners		...	...	...	3
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	5
General Stores		...	...	...	54
Greengrocers		...	...	...	2
Licensed Premises	...		...	...	34

The shops are small and are mostly owner-occupied, very few shop assistants being employed.

No proceedings were instituted during the year for offences against the Regulations, but several requests were made to owners to provide the facilities required under the Regulations.

Consultations also proceeded with Breweries regarding the modernisation of some of the licensed premises which are still sub-standard.

ADULTERATION

Huntingdon County Council is the primary Authority responsible for the administration of those provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to adulteration.

No special circumstances arose where it was considered any action could, with advantage, be taken by the Department.

